

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the consideration given the present application.

Claims 8 and 21-24 are now present in this application. Claims 8, 21, 22, and 24 are independent.

By this Amendment, claims 4-7 and 9-20 are canceled without prejudice, and claims 21, 22 and 24 are amended by being re-written in independent form. No new matter is involved.

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 4-6 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by DE 75 13 261 (DE '261"). This rejection is respectfully traversed as moot because claims 4-6 and 10 have been canceled.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 3, 12, 13, 14-16, 19 and 20 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over DE 75 13 261. This rejection is traversed as moot because claims 3, 8, 12, 13, 14-16, 19 and 20 have been canceled.

Claims 7, 9, 11, 17, 18 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over DE 75 13 261 as applied in the rejection of claims 4-6 and 10, and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication US 2002/0150488) to Lee et al. ("Lee"). This rejection

is respectfully traversed as moot because claims 7, 9, 11, 17, 18 and 20 have been canceled.

Allowance of Claims 8 and 23

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation, the allowance of claims 8 and 23.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action indicates that claims 21, 22 and 24 would be allowable if re-written in independent form. Applicants have re-written claims 21, 22 and 24 in independent form to place them in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone Robert J. Webster, Registration No. 46,472, at (703) 205-8000, in the Washington, D.C. area.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Application No.: 10/697,887
Art Unit 3753

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Applicants respectfully petition under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) and § 1.17 for a two-month(s) extension of time in which to respond to the Examiner's Office Action.

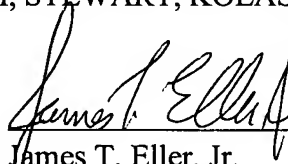
If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Date: April 30, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

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